

“Living In The Power Of The Holy Spirit”

Galatians 5:13-26

Sermon Series: “I’m Not Ok...What Can I Do About It?”

Introduction: (Galatians 5:13-15). Timothy George writes, "Thus the fruit of the Spirit *is* freedom— freedom to love, exude joy, to manifest peace, to display patience, and so on. It is *for freedom* that Christ has set us free. This means that Christian liberty is freedom for others, freedom that finds its true expression not theological privatism (“I am free to believe anything I choose”) or spiritual narcissism (“I am free to be myself no matter what”) but rather freedom to love and serve one another in the context of the body of Christ. Evidently one of the major problems among the churches of Galatia was that believers there did not know what to do with their Christ-won freedom. Some were using their liberty as a pretext for license, to the gratification of their sinful nature. Others were ‘Lone-Ranger’ Christians, having forgotten the mandate to bear one another’s burdens. Still others had fallen into discord and faction, backbiting and self-promotion. Thus in these closing two chapters Paul summoned the Galatians to a mature use of their spiritual birthright, reminding them that it is love, the love of Christ shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Spirit, that brings liberty to its fullest expression.”

Billy Graham has written, “Man has two great spiritual needs. One is for forgiveness. The other is for goodness. Consciously or unconsciously, his inner being longs for both. There are times when man actually cries for them, even though in his restlessness, confusion, loneliness, fear, and pressures he may not know what he is crying for.

God heard that first cry for help, that cry for forgiveness, and answered it at Calvary. God sent His only Son into the world to die for our sins, so that we might be forgiven. This is a gift for us – God’s gift of salvation. This gift is a permanent legacy for everyone who truly admits he has “fallen short” and sinned. It is for everyone who reaches out and accepts God’s gift by receiving Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Paul calls it God’s “indescribable” gift (2 Cor. 9:15).

But God also heard our second cry, that cry for goodness, and answered it at Pentecost. God does not want us to come to Christ by faith, and then lead a life of defeat, discouragement, and dissension. Rather, He wants to “fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power; in order that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you” (2 Thess. 1:11, 12). To the great gift of forgiveness God adds also the great gift of the Holy Spirit. He is the source of power who meets our need to escape from the miserable weakness that grips us. He gives us the power to be truly good.

If we are to live a life of sanity in our modern world, if we wish to be men and women who can live victoriously, we need this two-sided gift God has offered us: first, the work of the Son of God for us; second, the work of the Spirit of God in us. In this

way God has answered mankind's two great cries: the cry for forgiveness and the cry for goodness.

If you believe in Jesus Christ, a power is available to you that can change your life, even in such intimate areas as your marriage, your family relationships, and every other relationship."

Main Idea: We can change by living in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Meaning Of Living Under the Power Of The Spirit:

A. To rely on and be under the control of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

Jerry Bridges writes, "To live by the Spirit is to live both in obedience to and dependence on the Holy Spirit. There is a balance then between our wills [expressed by obedience] and our faith [expressed by our dependence]."

B. This is the normal Christian life commanded by God for all believers.

C. It is to be a consistent, ongoing action. We are to live under His leading and direction.

2. The Results Of Living Under The Power Of The Spirit:

A. Supernatural Power (v. 16-17)-He gives us the power to have victory over our sinful nature.

B. Supernatural Freedom (v. 18)-We can be free from legalism.

C. Supernatural Character (v. 22-23)-The Holy Spirit develops the character of Christ (the fruit of the Spirit) within us.

D. Supernatural Relationships (v. 22-23, 26).

3. The Process For Living In The Power Of The Spirit:

A. Personally trusting Jesus so that we receive the Holy Spirit.

B. Crucifying the flesh. It's in the active voice so it's something we do. We have to kill our sin before it kills us. Hate it. Confess it. Repent of it. Get help with it.

C. Living under the control of the Spirit. How? It is not a formula because we are relating to a Person, but here are some steps to take in order to be controlled by the Spirit:

-Examine our lives, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal all sin, and confess all known sin (1 John 1:9).

-Repent of sin and make things right with others if needed (2 Corinthians 7:10, Matthew 5:23-24).

-Surrender our wills to God (Romans 6:11, Luke 9:23).

-Ask in faith to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

-Depend on the Spirit moment by moment.